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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/640,838	08/16/2000	Hansjorg Sinn	8484-084-999	5422

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

HUFF, SHEELA JITENDRA

[REDACTED] ART UNIT [REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

1642

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2003

19

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/640,838	SINN ET AL.	
	Examiner Sheela J Huff	Art Unit 1642	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 02 May 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 4,5,15,17,18,23,26,27,32,38,42 and 43 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 4,5,15,17,18,23,26,27,32,38,42 and 43 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/2/03 has been entered.

The amendment filed on 5/2/03 has been considered. Applicant's arguments are deemed to be persuasive.

Claims 4,5, 15, 17-18, 20-27, 30-40 and 42-43 are pending.

The art rejection is withdrawn in favor of a new one.

Information Disclosure Statement

The information disclosure statement filed 5/2/03 has been considered and an initialed copy of the PTO-1449 is enclosed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 15, 4-5, 17-18, 23, 26-27, 32, 38 and 42-43 remain rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujiwara et al Cancer Research Vol. 45 p. 5442 (1985) in view of Spector US 3976763 and Wong, Chemistry of Protein Conjugation and Cross-linking, CRC Press Inc. 1991 pp. 63-67 and applicant's admission on page 2 of the specification.

Fujiwara et al disclose a conjugate between CHM (which has anti-tumor effects and bacteriostatic effects (p. 5442, first column, first line in Introduction) and BSA using an azo linker (p. 5442, second column , third full paragraph).

The only difference between the instant invention and the reference is that the reference does not use HAS or the mention of other active substances.

Spector discloses the use of azo linkers to link a active substance to albumin and clearly suggests the use of human serum albumin as the albumin (see col. 1, lines 19+ and col. 2, lines 1-10). Additionally, in col. 2, lines 1-10, this reference clearly discloses that it is within the purview of one skilled in the art as to which of the serum proteins can be used in their conjugate and this includes BSA and Human serum albumin.

Wong shows the typical structure of an azo compound (see Table 3), which reads on the structure of claim 18 and that a variety of different linkers are available to one of ordinary skill in the art.

On page 2 of the specification, applicant admits that the variety of "active substances" claimed are known in the art.

In view of the known use of either BSA or Human Serum Albumin in conjugates using azo linkers, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to use human serum albumin instead of BSA in the conjugate of the primary invention. The use of any known active substance in the conjugate is also within the purview one skilled in the art in view of applicant's admission on page 2. Absent objective evidence to the contrary, the human serum albumin of the primary reference is not regarded as exogenous by the subject.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sheela J Huff whose telephone number is 703-305-7866. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday 5:30am-11:30am and Fridays 6:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Anthony Caputa can be reached on 703-308-3995. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-4242 for regular communications and 703-308-4242 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1235.

Sheela J Huff
Sheela J Huff
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1642

sjh
May 29, 2003